CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A scheduling method comprising the steps of:

based on scheduling states, defining a set of static schedules for an application;

during run time, learning a cost of a set of static schedules based on performance of the application; and

designating the static schedule with the lowest cost as an optimal schedule for the scheduling state.

2. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the cost of a set of static schedules is learned each time there is a change in scheduling state.

3. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the cost of a set of static schedules is learned continuously during run time.

4. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

storing a set of all possible schedules associated with each schedule state; and

upon a change of state, selecting the optimal schedule associated with the schedule state.

5. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the selected schedule is the schedule with the lowest cost.

6. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the selected schedule is the schedule with an unknown cost.

7. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the schedule is randomly selected dependent on utility of exploration associated with the schedule.

8. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the cost of a schedule is computed and stored after the schedule is executed.

9. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

maintaining a task execution cost for each task in the application for each scheduling state.

10. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 9 wherein an optimal static schedule associated with a new scheduling state is computed using stored task execution costs.

11. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the cost of an individual task is updated using a sliding window which discounts older execution results at the expense of more recent execution results.

12. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the cost of a schedule is updated using a sliding window which discounts older execution results at the expense of more recent execution results.

13. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

predicting the cost of a schedule dependent on stored task execution costs.

14. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 13 wherein a schedule is selected for further exploration dependent on the predicted schedule cost.

15. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the step of learning further comprises the steps of:

storing application input data received during an active period in the application; and

exploring optimal schedules while replaying the stored input data during an idle period in the application.

16. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 15 wherein the step of learning further comprises the step of:

concurrently executing a copy of an application with identical input data on a processor other than the processor on which the application is executing.

17. A scheduling method as claimed in Claim 16 wherein a change in the optimized schedules is immediately reflected to the schedule analyzer for use in the next schedule change of the application.

18. A scheduling system comprising:

a set of static schedules for an application, the static schedules based on scheduling states; and

a schedule analyzer which:

during run time, learns a cost of the set of static schedules based on performance of the application; and

designates the static schedule with the lowest cost as an optimal schedule for the scheduling state.

19. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 18 wherein the schedule analyzer learns the cost of a set of static schedules each time there is a change in scheduling state.

20. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 18 wherein the schedule analyzer learns the cost of a set of static schedules continuously during run time.

21. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 18 further comprising:

a list of schedule costs which stores an optimal schedule associated with each schedule state wherein upon a change of state the schedule analyzer selects the optimal schedule corresponding to the schedule state.

22. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 21 wherein the schedule analyzer selects a schedule with the lowest cost.

23. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 21 wherein the schedule analyzer selects a schedule with an unknown cost.

24. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 23 wherein the schedule analyzer randomly selects a schedule dependent on utility of exploration associated with the schedule.

25. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 18 wherein the schedule analyzer computes the cost of a schedule and stores the computed cost after the schedule is executed.

26. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 18 further comprises:

a task execution table which stores a task execution cost for each task in the application for each scheduling state.

27. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 26 wherein the schedule analyzer computes an optimal static schedule associated with a new scheduling state using stored task execution costs.

28. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 27 wherein the schedule analyzer updates the cost of an individual task using a sliding window by discounting older execution results at the expense of more recent execution results.

29. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 27 wherein the schedule analyzer updates the cost of a schedule using a sliding window by discounting older execution results at the expense of more recent execution results.

30. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 18 wherein the schedule analyzer predicts the cost of a schedule dependent on stored task execution costs.

31. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 30 wherein the scheduler analyzer selects a schedule for further exploration dependent on a predicted schedule cost.

32. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 18 further comprising:

memory which stores application input data received during an active period in the application, the stored application input data allowing the schedule analyzer to explore optimal schedules while replaying the application input data during an idle period in the application.

33. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 32 wherein the schedule analyzer provides a copy of an application and the stored application input data for concurrent execution on a processor other than the processor on which the application is executing.

34. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 33 wherein a change in the optimized schedules is immediately reflected to the schedule analyzer for use in the next schedule change of the application.

35. A scheduling system comprising:

a set of static schedules for an application, the static schedules based on scheduling states;

means for learning which during run time, learns a cost of a set of static schedules based on performance of the application; and

means for selecting which designates the static schedule with the lowest cost as an optimal schedule for the scheduling state.

36. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 35 wherein the means for learning learns the cost of a set of static schedules is learned each time there is a change in scheduling state.

37. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 35 wherein the means for learning learns the cost of a set of static schedules continuously during run time.

38. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 35 further comprising:

a list of schedule costs which stores an optimal schedule associated with each schedule state wherein upon a change of state the means for analyzing selects the optimal schedule associated with the schedule state.

39. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 38 wherein the means for selecting selects a schedule with the lowest cost.

40. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 38 wherein the means for selecting selects a schedule with an unknown cost.

41. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 40 wherein the means for selecting randomly selects a schedule dependent on utility of exploration associated with the schedule.

42. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 35 wherein the means for selecting computes the cost of a schedule and stores the computed cost after the schedule is executed.

43. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 35 further comprises:

a task execution table which stores a task execution cost for each task in the application for each scheduling state.

44. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 43 wherein the means for selecting computes an optimal static schedule associated with a new scheduling state is using stored task execution costs.

45. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 44 wherein the means for selecting updates the cost of an individual task using a sliding window by discounting older execution results at the expense of more recent execution results.

46. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 44 wherein the means for selecting updates the cost of a schedule using a sliding window by discounting older execution results at the expense of more recent execution results.

47. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 35 wherein the means for selecting predicts the cost of a schedule dependent on stored task execution costs.

48. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 47 wherein the means for selecting selects a schedule for further exploration dependent on the predicted cost for the schedule.

49. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 35 wherein the on-line scheduling system further comprises:

memory which stores application input data received during an active period in the application, the stored application input data allowing the scheduling analyzer to explore optimal schedules while replaying the application input data during an idle period in the application.

50. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 49 wherein the on-line scheduling system provides a copy of a copy of an application and the stored application input data for concurrent execution on a processor other than the processor on which the application is executing.

51. A scheduling system as claimed in Claim 18 wherein a change in the optimized schedules is immediately reflected to the means for analyzing for use in the next schedule change of the application.

52. A computer system comprising:

a central processing unit connected to a memory system by a system bus;

an I/O system, connected to the system bus by a bus interface; and

a scheduling system routine located in the memory system which:

based on scheduling states, defines a set of static schedules for an application;

during run time, learns a cost of a set of static schedules based on performance of the application; and

designates the static schedule with the lowest cost as an optimal schedule for the scheduling state.

53. A computer program product for system scheduling, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, including program code which:

based on scheduling states, defines a set of static schedules for an application;

during run time, learns a cost of a set of static schedules based on performance of the application; and

designates the static schedule with the lowest cost as an optimal schedule for the scheduling state.